

Gray Whale Migration Under Way

The annual 12,000-mile migration of the big California gray whales—the longest animal migration in the world—has begun.

The whales have been spotted off Marineland of the Pacific at the tip of Palos Verdes Peninsula, both from the land points along the coast and from the Marineland Sky Tower, which rises 344 feet above the sea.

Gray whales are baleen whales — that is, instead of teeth, they have huge boney "strainers" in their upper jaw. In the old days, baleen was used, among other things, for stays in corsets. The whale opens his mouth for a great gob of water and food, then he drops the baleen over his gums and the ends of the baleen are divided into a fine brush-like strainer; with his tongue he pushes the water out and the baleen catches the food, which he swallows, John Prescott, curator at Marineland, said.

THE GRAYS usually travel

in small pods of from three to seven animals. Highly protected by the Canadian, American and Mexican governments, they swim leisurely along the coastline until they reach the lagoons and bays of Baja California. There, the pregnant females have their young, while the other half of the female population mates, Prescott explained. Gray whales are biennial reproducers; that is, they give birth every other year. Some of the grays swim around Cabo San Lucas at the tip of Baja California and north into the Sea of Cortez.

Twice in the last 100 years they have been slaughtered nearly into extinction, the Marineland curator said, but the various governments involved, including the Russian, have joined together in an effort to save the species.

The grays return along the California coast in February and March. However, "stragglers," as Prescott calls them, are going both ways for a long period of time, so that

often the grays are still "rungs" north in May.

ON THE WAY north toward the frigid waters of the arctic, mother gray whales nurse their young, as additional females swim along with them.

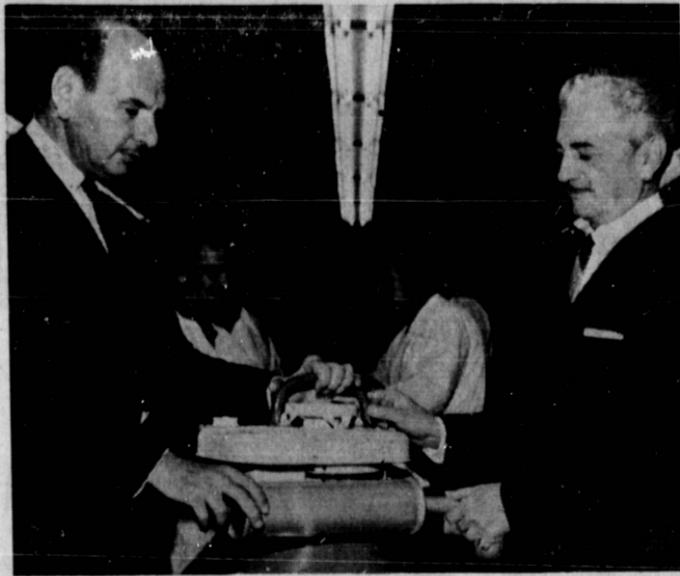
The Marineland curator explained that counting the number of "blows" is the easiest method of whale-watching. "Each gray whale," says Prescott, "will make three separate short 'blows' before

sounding." "Sounding" is when the whale shows his flukes — which measure 10 to 12 feet across — and dives deep, sometimes coming up 2,000 feet away, some eight minutes later. Normally, however, the grays will dive only 1,000 feet at the most, and then repeat the series of three short "blows."

The "blow" is caused by the vaporation of the whale's warm breath on the colder air just above the sea's surface. Occasionally, the blow is mixed with small amounts of

sea water collected in the blow-hole of the whale, making an even greater "blow" as sighted from land.

Very often, these big sea animals swim only short distances from shore, sometimes as close as 50 to 75 yards from the beach, Prescott said.



SWEDISH VISITORS . . . Jack S. Kotschack (left), representing the government-owned Swedish Telephone Co., inspects a Powermaker unit made by Electron Industries, Inc., of Torrance. With him is Leo Popkin, president of the local firm. The Swedish government has been evaluating the units for use in field repair trucks and asked the firm to install a special adapter which will enable the devices to operate in snow and rain. Powermaker units provide electrical power for the operation of lights, tools, and other equipment, according to Popkin. He also said the Swedish government expects to place an order for some 2,000 units in the near future. (Press-Herald Photo)

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The Mail Ego

By Terrence O'Flaherty

"So Frank Sinatra and Mia Farrow have split up! I guess that's the inevitable result of an innocent kid marrying an old rounder, but wasn't Hollywood surprised?"

Only Miss Farrow. The rest of the town was surprised that it lasted as long as it did. She may be innocent in ways of marriage but how can anyone be considered naive who dated Salvatore Dali as a teenage and has Louella O. Parson and George Cukor as godparents?

"Is the actress who plays 'the Flying Nun' a Catholic?"

Sally Field, the ecclesiastical Amelia Earhart, was raised as a Catholic but last Fall she told me she rebelled at being sent to a church school when she was young because the long flowing nun's habits invariably frightened her. Of course that was before she became Hollywood's most successful nun since Ingrid Bergman and Debbie Reynolds, and her habits may have changed.

"I am a big fan of Michael J. Pollard ever since I saw him in the movie 'Bonnie and Clyde.' Is that his first break?"

Mr. Pollard's first break was when he was born with that wonderful face, a mixture of imp and innocence. His next break was several years ago when he played the young man in a TV version of "The Human Comedy." His success was assured by a memorable two minute scene as the bewildered airplane mechanic in "The Russians Are Coming, The Russians Are Coming." His most recent TV appearance was made on the Danny Thomas Hour as Geraldine Chaplin's hippie boy friend. Pollard will be around for a long while, stealing scenes and putting people on.

Realtors To Install

Members of the Torrance-Lomita Board of Realtors will hold their 30th annual banquet Friday at 6:30 p.m.

H. Harold Lippard, newly elected president of the board, will be installed during the banquet, scheduled at the Push Horse Restaurant.

Social hour is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7:30 p.m. The Joey Sharpe Musicians will provide dance music.

"The big popularity of Julie Andrews continues to puzzle me. She's too bland to be much fun."

Don't blands have more fun than anybody?

"Well, I see where Marlene Dietrich is back in fashion again with her Broadway appearances and all. I'm a young wife and I never could figure out just what she has that men go crazy over; however I've only seen her on the old movies on TV."

If you had ever seen her in person, you'd know what she has — and she has more of it than anyone else in show business. Mystery is not a good word for it but it's the best I can think of and you can't find it anywhere today. Also, her figure is still unsurpassed and many men—including your husband, perhaps—have forgotten what a real woman looks like.

"I seem to recall that Greta Garbo once played Mata Hari, the sexy Belgium spy. Can you verify this?"

She did indeed, in an MGM movie in 1932. It was released to television as part of the studio's original TV package and will probably live forever on the home screen. Not so fortunate is David Merrick's musical "Mata Hari" which faces the firing squad this Saturday in Washington, D. C. without making Broadway.

"As I watch these suspense shows on television I always wonder whatever became of the greatest cliff-hanger of the all — 'The Perils of Pauline.'"

Hollywood has never quite forgotten her, but so far Pauline's TV career has been perilous indeed. CBS made a test pilot for a series and scrapped it. Next NBC failed to sell a TV version based on the recent Universal movie. Now NBC has created a new concept of Pauline and is filming a pilot with Pamela Austin which will be shown to prospective sponsors. Tune in next season and find out if Pauline survives or goes under for the third time.

"Does Hayley Mills have a sister who acts?"

The whole family acts. Her older sister Juliet Mills, 26, is well known as a leading lady in England.

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